

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 03698 020008Z  
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07  
TRSE-00 /080 W  
-----020013Z 020208 /22

O P 012330Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 262  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE  
AVEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 8417  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN PRIORITY  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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LONDON FOR SCHAUFELE

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS:PFOR, CG, AO, NI  
SUBJECT: GARBA'S MISSION TO ZAIRE AND ANGOLA

REF: LAGOS 3639

1. SUMMARY: GARBA REPORTS HE WAS "VERY FIRM" IN THREE HOUR  
DISCUSSION WITH NETO AND BROUGHT HIM IN DIRECTION OF PEACEFUL  
SETTLEMENT, BUT NETO "CAN DO NOTHING" UNTIL POLITBURO  
MEETS IN TWO OR THREE DAYS. GARBA SAYS HE IS "CAUTIOUSLY  
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 03698 020008Z

"OPTIMISTIC" AND IS PREPARED TO FLY BACK FROM NEW DELHI AT ANY  
TIME TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS, END SUMMARY

2. AT 8:50 P.M. APRIL 1 EXTAFF COMMISSIONER GARBA CALLED CHARGE  
IN RESPONSE TO NOTE CHARGE HAD LEFT AT GARBA'S RESIDENCE EARLIER  
IN EVENING. GARBA SAID HIS TRIP HAD BEEN REASONABLY SUCCESSFUL.  
HE TALKED WITH MOBUTU THREE TIMES AND HAD AN EXTENDED THREE

HOUR DISCUSSION WITH NETO. GARBA SAID HE HAD BEEN "VERY FIRM" WITH NETO AND MEMBERS OF HIS POLITBURO; HE HAD MADE CLEAR THAT FMG IS COMMITTED TO THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ZAIRE AND WANTS TO SEE THE SHABA PROBLEM RESOLVED PEACEFULLY. NETO HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN INTRANSGINET, TALKING OF THE PROBLEMS HE HAD HAD WITH ZAIRE, BUT AS THE DISCUSSION WENT ON GARBA BROUGHT NETO AROUND TO ACCEPT THAT THERE MIGHT BE A BASIS FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE DIFFERENCES AND TO SAY HE WOULD BE WILLING TO TRY TO WORK SOMETHING OUT. NETO SAID, HOWEVER, THERE WAS NOTHING HE COULD DO UNTIL THE POLITBURO MEETS IN TWO OR THREE DAYS (FROM MARCH 31) AND DEBATES THE MATTER. NETO CLAIMED HIS HANDS WERE TIED AND HE COULD DO NOTHING WITHOUT POLITBURO CONCURRENCE.

3. CHARGE ASKED IF GARBA HAD DISCUSSED ANGOLAN SUPPORT FOR KATANGESE GENDARMES AND THE NEED FOR CLOSURE OF THE ANGOLA/SHABA BORDER. GARBA SAID THEY HAD DISCUSSED ABSOLUTELY EVERY ASPECT OF THE SITUATION. HE SAID NETO HAD AT FIRST DENIED SUPPORTING THE KATANGESE BUT WHEN PRESSED HAD FINALLY ADMITTED THAT THEY WERE "UNDER HIS TUTELAGE".

4. GARBA SAID HE HAD EMPHASIZED TO NETO THE US WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE WITH HIM WITHOUT CONDITIONS; NETO WAS VERY PLEASED AT THAT, BUT HE WOULD STILL HAVE TO CONSULT THE POLITBURO. GARBA CONCLUDED NETO IS "TIED DOWN BY THE POLITBURO" ACD CITED AS ONE EVIDENCE OF THIS THE FACT THAT AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN LUANDA HE AND NETO HAD HAD TO WAIT FOR TWENTY MINUTES UNTIL A COUPLE OF ABSENT POLITBURO MEMBERS ARRIVED; THEN THEY COULD START THEIR TALKS.

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PAGE 03 LAGOS 03698 020008Z

5. CHARGE ASKED IF GARBA HAD SEEN CASTRO, BUT EH LATTER HAD LEFT LUANDA SHORTLY BEFORE GARBA'S ARRIVAL. GARBA SAID HE WOULD HAVE BEEN INTERESTED TO TALK WITH CASTRO ABOUT THE SHABA PROBLEM AND HAD THOUGHT THAT ON HIS RETURN TO LAGOS HE MIGHT GET IN TOUCH WITH THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR HERE. HE CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE CUBANS "ARE NOT A FACTOR" AT THIS STAGE AND HE DID NOT PURSUE IT. CHARGE RAISED THE POSSIBILITY THAT DESTABILIZATION OF MOBUTU MIGHT LEAD TO EXTENSION OF SOVIET INFLUENCE INTO ZAIRE AND CLEAR ACROSS AFRICA. GARBA SAID HE AGREED AND WAS WORRIED ABOUT SUCH A POSSIBILITY BUT HE THOUGHT IT WAS NOT IMMINENT; IT MIGHT COME LATER, HOWEVER.

6. CHARGE ASKED IF THERE WERE SOMETHING OAU FOR HAVING DONE NOTHING IN THIS, HE THOUGHT IN FACT MOBUTU DID NOT WANT TO TAKE THE PROBLEM TO THE OAU. GARBA SAW NO ROLE FOR THE UN AT PRESENT EITHER; HE THOUGHT IT BEST TO LEAVE THE MATTER TO ZAIRE, ANGOLA AND NIGERIA FOR THE TIME BEING.

7. IN CONCLUSION, GARBA SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HIS CONVERSATION WITH NETO HAD BEEN INCONCLUSIVE AND NOTHING ESSENTIALLY HAD HAPPENDED, HE WAS "CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC". GARBA IS LEAVING APRIL 2 BUT HE SAID HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO IS FULLY IN THE PICTURE AND IF AND WHEN HE GIVES THE WORD GARBA IS PREPARED IMMEDIATELY TO RETURN FROM THE NON-ALIGNED CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN NEW DELHI TO CONTINUE THE NEGOTIATIONS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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